Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 HUD-01 /083 W ----- 061601

R 250740Z MAY 75 FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1333

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, SA

SUBJECT: REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT FUND; INCREASED EFFORTS TO FINANCE

HOME BUILDING

1. IN A MOVE TO INCREASE THE SPEED WITH WHICH OIL REVENUE TRICKLES DOWN TO SAUDI CITIZENS, THE SAG HAS TAKEN ACTION TO MAKE THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT FUND MORE EFFECTIVE. FOLLOWING A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS'S RESOLUTION DATED MAY 13, 1975, CAPITAL OF THE FUND WILL BE INCREASED TO SR 2 BILLION

574 MILLION), IN THE NEXT BUDGET. THE FUND WILL FINANCE A MAXIMUM OF 70 PERCENT OF THE CONSTRUCTION COSTS OF PRIVATE RESIDENCES. ABSOLUTE CEILING IS SR 300,000 (\$78,000 WILL BUY QUITE A RESPECTABLE HOUSE IN SAUDI ARABIA). THE MAXIMUM WILL BE 50 PERCENT AND SR 10 MILLION FOR APARTMENT BUILDINGS AND RESIDENTIAL COMPOUNDS.

2. PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, THE LOANS WILL BE ADMINISTERED THROUGH VARIOUS PRIVATE BANKS UNTIL THE FUND IS COMPLETELY SET UP FOR OPERATION. EACH BANK WILL SPECIALIZE IN A PARTICULAR AREA: ONE WILL HANDLE CITIZENS WHO HAVE NEVER OWNED A HOME, ANOTHER WILL HANDLE HOME OWNERS, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANOTHER WILL HANDLE COMMERCIAL REQUESTS. THIS PROVISION

WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO BEGIN MOVING A GOOD VOLUME OF AVAILABLE FUNDS OUT MUCH FASTER THAN WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN THE CASE, GIVEN THE PROBLEMS OF THE FUND IN RECRUITING STAFF, SETTING UP OFFICES, ETC.

3. THIS MOVE IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF KING KHALID'S DESIRE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO HOUSING AND HEALTH CARE. OF COURSE THIS ACTION WILL CERTAINLY ADD PRESSURES TO THE GAP BETWEEN DEMAND FOR AND SUPPLY OF HOUSING, AND REAL ESTATE PRICES ARE ALREADY RISING AT ASTRONOMICAL RATES. AKINS

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TAGS: EFIN, SA To: STATE

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